

### **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 30, 2007, the Applicants sincerely request reconsideration in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1 and 4-18 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4-11, and 18 are allowed. Claims 16 and 17 are objected to. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice. No new matter is added by the amendments.

#### ***Interview Summary***

A brief telephonic interview was held between the Examiner and the Applicants' attorney on November 20, 2007. The attorney explained the amendments and confirmed with the Examiner that no other issues are currently present preventing a Notice of Allowance as next action.

#### ***Allowed Subject Matter***

Claims 1, 4-11, and 18 are indicated as allowed by the Office Action. Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1, 4-11, and 18.

#### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 16 and 17 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Claim 16 has been amended to include all elements of rejected claim 14. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from now independent claim 16. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16 and 17 are in condition for allowance in their current form and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

***Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103***

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0014447 to White (hereinafter *White*), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,438 to Ichimura, *et al.* (hereinafter *Ichimura*) and in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0030645 to Ribak, *et al.* (hereinafter *Ribak*).

Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejections are therefore moot.

**CONCLUSION**

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicants assert that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC



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